

# DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

## POLICY / PROCEDURE



SUBJECT: <b>HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) INFECTED POPULATIONS</b>	POLICY NO. <b>202.16</b>	EFFECTIVE DATE <b>10/01/89</b>	PAGE <b>1 of 1</b>
APPROVED BY: <b>Original Signed by:</b> <b>ROBERTO QUIROZ</b> Director	SUPERSEDES <b>102.16</b>	ORIGINAL ISSUE DATE <b>10/01/89</b>	DISTRIBUTION LEVEL(S) <b>2</b>

**PURPOSE:** 1.1 To provide a Department of Mental Health (DMH) plan to address the mental health needs of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infected populations.

**POLICY:**

2.1 It is clearly evident on both a national and local level that there is a great service need of the rapidly growing populations which are infected by HIV. These include those groups with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), AIDS-related Complex (ARC) and asymptomatic states. In addition to the chronically disabling general health complications and death, there is substantial neuropsychological impairment associated with the infection. Others who are severely disabled frequently develop psychiatric symptoms related to the stress associated with the testing results, related diagnoses and oftentimes extreme social consequences.

2.2 Within available resources, the Los Angeles County DMH shall respond to this epidemic in concert with national and state mental health agencies in the provision of services to these populations.

2.3 DMH will work closely with health providers, both public and private, and other community-based care organizations to design and provide mental health related services which are relevant, culturally-sensitive, accessible and family-oriented for all age groups, including children.

2.4 This expansion of the currently targeted DMH populations will be accompanied by necessary procedural changes, relevant inservice training and appropriate mental health system changes.

**AUTHORITY:** Department of Mental Health Policy